

After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and upon graduating from university, I had found myself with an over qualification quandary. As a 30 year old going on 13, I continue to search for full-time employment, trying to break away from the vicious cycle of living paycheck to paycheck, and through hard work and dedication I have been creating my own opportunities by combining my skill set, experience, and knowledge, coining the title; Ocean M.E.S.E. Mariner, Educator, Scientist, Explorer. Polar and Ocean exploration has always been my passion. As a compulsive autodidact, I take advantage of as many opportunities as I can, to make myself an ideal candidate to work in the high latitudes and out to sea, but the reality of what happened is, I have logged too many hours and certifications to qualify for the sort of jobs available to new graduates, but that does not put a damper on my adventurous attitude. Educated as a multidisciplinary scientist and mariner, educator, and business entrepreneur by trade, I am a modern day explorer with the ocean being my home, my workplace, and playground. I have been to all 50 States, all 13 Provinces and Territories in Canada, 6 out of 7 continents, 4 out of 5 oceans, even the Geographic North Pole. From backpacking in Australia, seafloor mapping around the Marshall Islands, snowboarding in Switzerland, to geological mapping in Antarctica, and snorkelling the Northwest Passage, I look to inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers. My live simply life parallels the Flyin Ryan Course Values. My free time is sparse, as I continue to juggle managing seasonal tourism businesses and running a marina on Block Island, serving as the captain aboard vessels, and instructing snowboarding, scuba diving, and boating, all while trying to feed my thirst for adventure. When there is a job prospect available to work in my field of study, I take the contract or volunteer to serve on expeditions around the world, then in my “down time” deliver ocean and polar science, and exploration lectures and workshops to schools and social groups around the Northeast [United States] and beyond. My audience ranges from toddlers to senior citizens, with a majority of my requests from middle and high schools. I have spoken at public, private, and military schools, home-school groups, elementary, middle, and high schools, colleges, senior centers, libraries, and even hold online lectures with Exploring by the Seat of your Pants. Children are our future; I look to teach children how to enjoy all forms of water, and to instil in them a better appreciation to help preserve the world. “Everyone talks about leaving a better planet for our children. Why doesn’t anyone try to leave better children for our planet?” – Unknown. I am asking for help from the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation Adventure Scholarship, to help offset the cost of travel to Cambodia this December for my involvement in the NGEN: Cambodia Expedition. The entire 17 day, self-funded expedition costs \$44,000, split between 10 adventurers, each individual will be contributing \$4,400. The budget consists of flights, food, renting inflatable pack-raft, and satellite equipment to host our educational outreach segments, lodging the first and last night (the rest of the time we will be camping), shipping our gear, and park entry fees. The Next Generation Explorers Network (NGEN) is a community within The Explorers Club members who are leading the next generation of exploration. This December, NGEN is holding the first, of what we hope is a series of expeditions put entirely together by some of the "younger members" of the Explorers Club. It incorporates science, adventure, physical exertion, and foremost exploration, where we hold an

expedition to a region of the planet (this year Cambodia), and where the objectives for expedition are collectively highlighting our research, training, and passions. Through the NGEN network, ten explorers (myself included) have come together to embark on a journey down Cambodia's Mekong River, traveling into remote areas using inflatable pack-rafts. The interdisciplinary team brings together the next generation of scientists, researchers, and outdoor professionals to complete a variety of objectives that will advance our collective knowledge of the region. We are not only creating our own experiences, we are continuously pushing ourselves to be the best role models we can be, and to inspire the next generation.